

## Message Text

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12

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 ITF-05 SR-02 ORM-01 AID-20 VO-03

SCA-01 INSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

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P 091013Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 26

INFO US MISSION USUN NEW YORK 1937

US MISSION GENEVA 1590

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 6181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF JA US

SUBJ: GVN DIPLOMATS REQUEST FOR ASYLUM

REF: A. TOKYO 5740 B. TOKYO 5996

1. GVN AMB NGUYEN TRIEU DAN CALLED ON  
AMBASSADOR HODGSON MAY 8 TO SEEK EARLY FAVORABLE  
DECISION ON GRANTING ASYLUM TO HIS STAFF MEMBERS WHO  
WANT REFUGE IN US. AMB DAN STRESSED FINANCIAL HARDSHIP OF  
TOKYO, SECURITY DANGERS (GVN STAFFERS HAVE BEEN THREATENED  
BY JAPANESE AND VN LEFTISTS AND GVN EMBASSY WAS OVER-RUN  
BY VIETNAMESE STUDENTS FOR HOUR OR SO APRIL 30), AND PRESSURE  
FROM GOJ FOR DIPLOMATS TO FIND NEW HOMELAND.

2. GVN EMBOFF NGUYEN ANH TUAN CALLED MAY 9 TO DISCUSS DETAILS  
FURTHER WITH EMBOFF. TUAN SAID MOST GVN DIPLOMATS HAD  
SAVINGS ON WHICH THEY COULD SURVIVE FOR ABOUT TWO MONTHS  
BUT, RATHER THAN WASTE THESE LIMITED FUNDS IN EXPENSIVE TOKYO AND  
TAKE REFUGE PENNILESS, IT WOULD BE MUCH MORE DESIRABLE AND  
SENSIBLE IF REFUGE COULD BE GRANTED EARLY AND FUNDS COULD BE  
USED FOR SETTLEMENT IN US. TUAN ALSO SAID THAT SOME STAFFERS  
HAD RECEIVED THREATS.

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3. THIRD MAJOR CONCERN IS GOJ ATTITUDE. TUAN NOTED THAT FONOFF  
TOLD AMB DAN LATE MAY 6 THAT SITUATION  
IN SVN WAS UNCLEAR AND RECOGNITION OF PRG WAS NOT IMMINENT.  
TWO HOURS LATER FONOFF CONTACTED GVN EMBASSY AND TOLD THEM

RECOGNITION WOULD OCCUR THE NEXT DAY. SIMILARLY, FONOFF TOLD VIETNAMESE GOJ COULD ACCEPT CUSTODY OF GVN EMBASSY. MAY 8 VICE FONMIN TOGO INFORMED AMB DAN THAT GOJ RECEIVED TELEGRAM FROM HANOI ASKING THAT EMBASSY BE TURNED OVER TO CUBANS IMMEDIATELY. FONOFF LEGAL DIVISION ALSO DETERMINED THAT GOJ COULD NOT ACCEPT PROPERTY FROM FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS. FONOFF ALSO SAID CUBANS MIGHT WISH TO LOOK AT PROPERTY BEFORE TAKING IT OVER.

4. TUAN TOLD FONOFF MAY 9 THEY WOULD NOT TURN PROPERTY DIRECTLY OVER TO CUBANS AND PROPOSED THAT GOJ ACCEPT CUSTODY DE FACTO MOMENTARILY AND THEN IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER TURN IT OVER TO CUBANS. FONOFF IS STUDYING THIS PROPOSAL. TUAN ALSO COMMENTED THAT AMB DAN WILL LEAVE MAY 14 AND THEY WILL NOT SHOW CUBANS AROUND ADJACENT CHANCERY IN ANY CASE BUT CERTAINLY WOULD NOT LET CUBANS IN UNTIL AFTER AMB HAD LEFT PREMISES.

5. VIETNAMESE NOW SUSPECT THAT HANOI SEEMS TO HAVE DECIDED TO UNITE NVN AND SVN, PERHAPS ON HO CHI MINH'S BIRTHDAY MAY 19, AND NOT GO THROUGH FICTION OF SEPARATE SVN. THEY CITE AS EVIDENCE FACT THAT NO PRG LEADERS HAVE APPEARED IN SAIGON AND THE CURIOUS DELAY IN RE-NAMING SAIGON "HO CHI MINH CITY". TUAN SAID GOJ'S VACILLATING DECISION-MAKING AND SUDDEN DEVELOPMENTS, SUCH AS POSSIBLE RE-UNITING OF NVN AND SVN COULD CHANGE GOJ'S ATTITUDE TOWARD GVN DIPLOMATS AND STUDENTS. ALTHOUGH HE DOES NOT BELIEVE GOJ WOULD DEPORT THEM TO VN, HE IS CONCERNED THAT GOJ WOULD SUDDENLY FORCE THEM TO LEAVE JAPAN. FOR THESE REASONS, VIETNAMESE DIPLOMATS ARE VERY ANXIOUS.

6. UNHCR REP SAITO STILL HAS NO INSTRUCTIONS, BUT RECEIVED COPY (GENEVA 3262) UNHCR'S MESSAGE.

7. COMMENT: EMBASSY CONVINCED FINANCIAL CONCERNS ARE GENERALLY LEGITIMATE AND PRESSURE FROM GOJ WILL UNDOUBTEDLY GROW FOR

DIPLOMATS TO DEPART. AGAIN, WE HOPE FOR EARLY, FAVORABLE DECISION.

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HODGSON

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 26 AUG 1999  
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